

## News from SALEM COUNTY

## Office of Public Information

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## SALEM COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OBSERVES NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

(SALEM, NJ) – The Salem County Mental Health Board recognizes July as the observance of Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to raise awareness about severe mental illness in diverse communities.

"In 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives designated July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month," explained Salem County Freeholder Jeffrey J. Hogan, Chair of the County Social Services Committee. "Campbell was a leading African American journalist and novelist, and a national spokesperson for individuals and families affected by mental illness. She died in 2006."

"Unfortunately, disparities in mental health care still prevent people in diverse communities from getting the treatment that they need," said Arnold Bradway, Salem County Mental Health Board Administrator. "Our goal is to educate people about mental illness, treatment and research, and to eliminate stigma. All people deserve access to quality mental health services."

Mental illness affects one in four American families and people in diverse communities are no exception. The U.S. Surgeon General reports that minorities:

- Are less likely to receive diagnosis and treatment for their mental illness
- Have less access to and availability of mental health services
- Often receive a poorer quality of mental health care
- Are underrepresented in mental health research

For additional information about National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, contact the Salem County Mental Health Board at 339-8618. To access resources and suggested activities, the Salem County Mental Health Board suggests you visit: <a href="https://www.nami.org/minoritymentalhealthmonth">www.nami.org/minoritymentalhealthmonth</a>, a site sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Salem County.



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